

Comprehension

Answer these questions about the story “Witches’ Loaves.”

- 1 What can you infer about Miss Martha from lines 15–18?
 - A. She has a tendency to jump to conclusions.
 - B. She feels superior to artists.
 - C. She wishes all artists didn’t live poorly.
 - D. She is proud of giving out bakery goods.

- 2 Miss Martha’s “compound of quince seeds and borax” in lines 55–56 is a symbol of
 - F. her fear of growing old and ill
 - G. her pride at being successful in business
 - H. her dissatisfaction with her appearance
 - I. her desire for a romantic relationship

- 3 Which sentence best describes the main theme of the story?
 - A. It takes only one mistake to ruin the work of a genius.
 - B. People are sometimes too proud to accept gifts from strangers.
 - C. People sometimes let their desires affect the way they see the world.
 - D. It is best not to have sympathy for people.

- 4 What can you infer from Miss Martha’s decision to wear her blue-dotted silk waist?
 - F. She hopes Blumberger will mention it so that she can start a conversation.
 - G. She wears it to keep her dress clean as she bakes and waits on customers.
 - H. She wants to show Blumberger that she can afford expensive clothes.
 - I. She wants to look attractive to Blumberger.

- 5 What conclusion can you draw about Blumberger at the end of the story?
 - A. He is insulted that Miss Martha pitied him.
 - B. He is angry that his drawing was ruined.
 - C. He is happy to be a draftsman.
 - D. He is upset that he has to redo his drawing.

- 6 Why does Miss Martha throw out the quince seed and borax mixture at the end of the story?
 - F. Her romantic dreams are over.
 - G. She doesn’t like Blumberger anymore.
 - H. She wants to change her looks back.
 - I. She thinks that she has been “unmaidenly.”

Written Response

SHORT RESPONSE

- 7 Lines 15–18 show Miss Martha’s response to Blumberger’s stained fingers. How does her response illustrate the theme of the story? Use details from the text to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

EXTENDED RESPONSE

- 8 Name three assumptions that Miss Martha makes about Blumberger, and give the story details on which they are based. Then tell how each assumption is shown to be wrong at the end of the story.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Go On 